



Golf Today Magazine's Annual Golf Bag Review

► Terry VanderHeiden

For the past fifteen years *Golf Today Magazine* has followed closely the evolution of the golf bag. The golf bags of yesterday were heavy to lug around the golf course with only a few zipper pouches to place your needed golf accessories. Today's carry bags are not only ultra-light but all the carry bags have pop-out legs and double shoulder straps to balance the load of golf clubs around an entire round of golf.

The key to golf bag design is to create a bag that fits the needs of the individual golfer and offer as many attributes as possible. If you generally ride a cart, then look for a cart bag. These typically will be larger and heavier than a carry bag but the advantage of space to carry everything you want is a real plus. If you like to walk the golf course and want to carry your bag – you need to look for a bag that puts the weight of the bag as the premium feature, like today's carry bags. This will insure you the ability to make it around all 18 holes without suffering any additional fatigue. If

you are somewhere in between sometimes ride, sometimes walk or even take a push-cart, then the hybrid bag is for you.

So many bags, so many choices, what's a golfer to do?

You came to the right place – Golf Today's Annual Golf Bag Review and Buying Guide. Here we have worked with all the golf bags in this article and we give you information for your next, knowledgeable, buying decision of the golf bag.

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Golf Today Magazine's Annual Golf Bag Review

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provisional ball or two.

If you are looking for a bag that you can walk with from time to time and also place on a cart securely, check out the Sasquatch Tour from Nike.

DATREK

Datrek (www.dynamic-brands.com) has long been a producer of great golf bags and 2010 brings the first product release since being acquired by golf giant, Dynamic Brands.

The first in the new line of Datrek Golf Bags is the Sabre Stand Bag. This is a 5.5 lb bag with a 10 inch top that has eight compartments for your clubs. Each one of these compartments has full-length dividers to help keep your clubs from tangling up at the bottom. This top is very roomy for your clubs so getting them in an out is a breeze.

There are five zippered pouches, a water-bottle pouch and a scorecard pouch. Inside one of the side pockets is a mesh pocket sewn into the side of the bag. This is a great

place to keep your glove or something you want to have a little airflow on.

Near the top of the bag is a zippered pouch to dispense golf balls. This pouch has a quick access hole to pop a new ball out when you need it, as well as a see through window to let you know when you are getting low.

The pop out legs have a nice Velcro lock to keep the legs hugging the bag in the event of placing this bag on a cart and those legs have a nice wide sup-base tips the bag on all kinds of terrain.

The Sabre Stand Bag also has a patch of Velcro high on the bag for glove attachment and there is a nice elastic and rubber towel holder secured to the top of the bag as well.

Next up from Datrek is the

mid-sized Raptor Cart Bag. The Raptor has most everything you would want on a cart bag in a slightly smaller size. Like the Sabre, the Raptor has a 10" top but the difference is the the Raptor has 14 full-length dividers plus and external putter well.

There are eight zippered compartments for all your golf stuff. With all the new devices from Blackberries to regular cell phones, Datrek made the fleece lined valuables pouch one of the largest I have seen on a golf bag. Also a really cool concept is there are two mesh pouches inside one of the garment pockets to keep things better organized in those sometimes unruly, large pockets.

The insulated cooler pocket is also very large and should be able to hold just about all your drinks and food for the day. However, if you zip one of the zippers to the cooler bag down too far, it can get caught

behind the putter well. This is not a big deal, but something to watch out for.

Another nice thing is on one side of the bag, Datrek added a second garment pouch. This is really handy to place damp rain gear in one and dry cloths in another – nice golf bag design.

Last up from Datrek is the Assault Cart Bag. This cart bag holds nothing back;

it is grand in scale and grand in function. This bag is all about duality. Depending on if you are the driver or the rider your items can be easily accessible on the side of the bag that is most convenient. There are two valuables crush resistant pockets, two sets of large garment pouches and two putter wells. In the front of the bag you will find yet another valuables pouch – though it is small, the size is about perfect for a cell

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Datrek Sabre Stand Bag



Datrek Raptor Cart Bag



Datrek Assault Cart Bag

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others.

When a person thinks of Sun Mountain golf bags they usually are thinking of the ultra-lightweight, full featured carry bags and this year is no exception with the Superlight SLX carry bag. The Superlight SLX weighs in at less than four pounds! In this lightweight package, Sun Mountain had included a 9.5 inch top – this is quite large for a carry bag. There are six compartments for clubs as well as a integrated handle just like on the S1.

The Superlight SLX has the X-Strap Dual Strap System that is Sun Mountain's answer to dual shoulder golf bag transport. There are seven pockets including a water bottle pouch, a velour-lined valuables pocket and a full-length clothing pocket. All of the zippers have little waterproof hoods to protect against the elements. Most of all, this bag is lightweight and a joy to carry around the golf course.

BAG BOY

Bag Boy (www.bagboycompany.com)

Sun Superlight SLX



prob- famous line of golf push, pull and varieties) the Bag company manufac- some amazing golf bags.

This year, Bag Boy is ing the Revolver Plus Bag. The most revolution- club organizing system for bags on the market today. Revolver Plus uses what acts like a turn- table for your golf clubs.

To begin with, the golf clubs are each stored in their own separate tube. Each shaft is easily clicked into place by the use of a small rubber notch in each tube. Once the clubs are secure in the bag the fun begins. The entire top of the bag rotates 360 degrees to give you access to the club of your choice. Gone are the days of trying to reach over a driver to get underneath to a wedge. Just spin the top of the Revolver Plus and there is your selected club.

There are 14 compartments for each of

has been produc- ing innova- tive golf products since 1946. While ably most for their carts (the power Boy golf tures

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your clubs as well as two putter clips on the front of the bag. The strap from the cart can rest in

grooves that are on these putter clips

Bag Boy Revolver Plus



Vel-
strip
cov-

ers them almost en-
tirely when in use. However, if you attach this bag to a push cart – the Velcro is very accessible.

The Revolver Plus has nine zippered compartments and one mesh pocket on the outside of the bag. There is a tiny little

ter clips thereby keeping the cart strap out of the way.

The cart strap from a power cart will affect the use of the cro-
as it

divot repair tool pocket on the front of the bag. Of the zippered compartments there is a good-sized insulated cooler pouch and a cell phone sized valuables pouch on the front of the bag.

The Revolver Plus also has two rubberized hoist handles (most bags only have one, if any) to help you get your bag in and out of your trunk.

These pouches and zippered compartments are nice but once you see the rotating top of this golf bag work – it will be hard for you to look at your old golf bag again.